

Date of Hearing: April 3, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Jose Medina, Chair
AB 2477 (Rubio and Low) – As Introduced February 14, 2018

SUBJECT: Student support services: Dream Resource Liaisons.

SUMMARY: Requires the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to create Dream Resource Liaisons and Centers on each campus, as specified, and requires the governing board of a school district or county office of education that maintains any grades from 9 – 12 inclusive, to designate a Dream Resource Liaison at each of their respective campuses that includes said grades. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Makes various Legislative findings and declarations, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) It is the intent of the Legislature to increase enrollment and graduation rates among students meeting the requirements of Assembly Bill 540 (Firebaugh), Chapter 814, Statutes of 2001, by requiring the designation of Dream Resource Liaisons and encouraging the creation of Dream Resource Centers at public institutions of higher education;
 - b) Since the passage of Assembly Bill 540, the California Dream Act of 2011, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other pieces of legislation, college affordability has become more attainable for AB 540 students, including undocumented students. This bill seeks to address this issue faced by AB 540 students, including undocumented students, by creating a centralized space that those students will be able to utilize in order to access necessary resources and opportunities to ensure they succeed, regardless of their immigration status;
 - c) The creation of Dream Resource Centers would save staff time and resources by streamlining all available financial aid and academic opportunities for AB 540 students. These Dream Resource Centers would seek to empower and create a safe and welcoming environment for those students. These centers would increase enrollment, transfer, and graduation rates among this population; and,
 - d) The 45th President of the United States has threatened to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, and it is imperative, now more than ever, to provide these essential resources to our students on all college campuses.
- 2) Requires the CCC and the CSU, and requests the UC, commencing with the 2019-20 academic year, to ensure that it has a staff person designated as a Dream Resources Liaison who is knowledgeable in available financial aid, services, and academic opportunities for all students meeting the requirements pursuant to Education Code (EC) Section 68130.5, including undocumented students.

- 3) Encourages each campus of the CCC, CSU, and UC, to place the Dream Resources Liaison in the campus' extended opportunity programs and services (EOPS) office or the educational opportunity programs office, respectively, or the financial aid office.
- 4) Encourages the CCC, CSU, and UC to establish Dream Resource Centers on each of their respective campuses.
- 5) Specifies that the Dream Resources Centers may offer support services including, but not necessarily limited to: a) state and institutional financial aid assistance; b) academic counseling; c) peer support services; d) psychological counseling; e) referral services; and, f) legal services.
- 6) Specifies that this measure shall not be construed as mandating the construction of new or separate space for Dream Resource Centers.
- 7) Specifies that Dream Resource Centers may be housed within existing student service or academic centers; and, the space in which a Dream Resource Liaison is located may be deemed a Dream Resource Center.
- 8) Authorizes the governing boards of the segments to accept private funds to establish and operate the centers.
- 9) Requires the governing board of a school district or county office of education that maintains any grades from 9 – 12 inclusive, to designate a Dream Resource Liaison as described in (2), at each of their respective campuses that includes said grades.

EXISTING LAW:*Federal law.*

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security, under the direction of President Obama, announced the DACA policy, authorizing certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization. Deferred action is a use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time. Deferred action does not provide lawful status.

Individuals may request consideration of DACA if they meet all of the following requirements:

- Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
- Came to the United States before their 16th birthday;
- Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
- Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making the request for consideration of deferred action;

- Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012, meaning never had a lawful immigration status on or before June 15, 2012, or any lawful immigration status or parole obtained prior to June 15, 2012, that had expired as of June 15, 2012;
- Currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a General Educational Development certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and,
- Have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

State law.

- 1) Exempts specified California nonresidents from paying nonresident tuition at UC, CSU, and CCC, also known as the AB 540 nonresident tuition waiver, if they meet all of the following:
 - a) Attended or attained credits at a California high school, an adult school, a CCC campus, or a combination of these entities, for the equivalent of three or more years; or completed three or more years of full-time high school coursework, and a total of three or more years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of such elementary and secondary schools;
 - b) Graduated from a California high school or attained an equivalent degree; attained a CCC associate degree; or fulfilled the minimum transfer requirements from a CCC campus to a UC or CSU campus;
 - c) Registered or attended an accredited California higher education institution beginning after fall of the 2001-02 academic year; and,
 - d) If a person without lawful immigration status has filed an affidavit stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status or will file such an application as soon as he or she is eligible to so do (EC Section 68130.5).
- 2) Establishes the California DREAM Act to provide state financial aid, including the Cal Grant Program and the CCC California College Promise Grant (formerly known as the Board of Governors Fee Waiver), and institutional financial aid to students who qualify for the aforementioned exemption from non-resident tuition (as listed in number one above), students must apply by March 2 prior to the academic year; Dream Act recipients receive Cal Grant Entitlement awards, but are not eligible for Competitive Cal Grant awards unless funding remains available after eligible California students have received awards (EC Section 69508.5).
- 3) Establishes the California DREAM Loan Program intended to provide low-interest loans to Dream Act students who are accessing the Cal Grant program and attending UC and CSU. These students are not eligible for federal student loans, making it difficult for some to cover the total costs of college. The law requires the state, UC and CSU to split the costs of launching the program (EC Sections 70030-70039).

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee 2017 fiscal analysis of a bill similar to this one:

- 1) State reimbursable mandate costs of \$2.8 million GF to the CCC campus to designate a Dream Resource Liaison. While 11 CCC campuses have Dream Resource Centers and another 25 campuses designate a staff member to work with immigrant students, the remaining CCCs will incur costs. This estimate assumes an average annual cost of \$37,500 to support the reimagining 77 campuses. These costs become General Fund cost pressure as the state will be required to reimburse the college for the new state mandated activity. The CCC Chancellor's Office would also incur \$60,000 in administrative costs to provide technical assistance to the colleges.
- 2) Minor and absorbable cost to CSU. CSU already designates a staff member to work with undocumented students. Should a CSU campus decide to establish a Dream Resource Center, costs would start at \$10,000 per campus.
- 3) Minor and absorbable cost to UC. UC believes this bill is consistent with the UC's practices and continuing efforts to support undocumented students.
- 4) Significant costs to school districts and county offices of education that maintain any grades from 9 - 12 inclusive to designate a Dream Resource Liaison. There are 1,818 schools that maintain any grades from 9 – 12 inclusive. If the school is not able to designate a liaison within existing resources, the cost may be a reimbursable state mandate and an on-going General Fund cost pressure.

COMMENTS: *Background.* The 45th President of the United States issued an Executive Order on January 25, 2017, that aims to greatly increase the number of immigration control officials and expand the population of Californians that could be subject to deportation. Additionally, on September 5, 2017, the United States Attorney General announced that DACA will be rescinded.

Need for the measure. According to information provided by the author, every year, approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools nationwide. The author contends that, "In today's political climate, undocumented students are facing even greater challenges than before. As a state, it is important to provide undocumented students with the support they need at our public colleges and universities."

The author states, "Students should feel safe in their educational journeys and this bill helps ensure undocumented students have access to resources that will help them reach their full potential".

This bill seeks to provide resources for undocumented students at the CCC, CSU, UC, and high schools by ensuring each entity has a specified Dream Resource Liaison and Center.

Current practices by postsecondary education segments.

- 1) *UC.* The UC has consistently supported efforts to provide resources and create a supportive community for undocumented students. Every UC campus has a specified physical space whereby undocumented students can seek assistance in balancing their academics with day-to-day challenges they may face. A range of support services are offered – from academic and

personal counseling to financial aid and legal advising. Each campus also has a student group, club or organization where undocumented students can become involved in an engaging and encouraging peer network.

2) *CSU*. The CSU is committed to supporting the academic, personal, and professional goals of undocumented students; 15 of the 23 campuses of the CSU have resource centers. The Dream Centers of the CSU are designed to provide access to college opportunities for undocumented high school, transfer, undergraduate, and graduate students, and those with mixed-status families. The Dream Centers partner with the community, staff, faculty and administrators, in order to provide undocumented students with adequate resources on and off campus. To note, of the remaining CSU campuses presently without a Dream Center on campus, several have dedicated virtual centers.

3) *CCC*. The CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) is committed to ensuring undocumented students receive the support and recourse they need in order to be successful. Committee Staff understands that based on a CCCCCO fall 2016 survey, the most recent data available to date, of the 72 community college districts, 10 districts have already established Dream Centers and 30 districts have targeted strategies in place to eventually lead to the creation of a Dream Center. Many CCC campuses have identified a person on campus to assist undocumented students as they matriculate.

Previous legislation. AB 1622 (Low) of 2017, which was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File, was substantially similar in nature to this measure.

AB 2009 (Lopez) of 2016, which was vetoed by the Governor, was substantially similar in nature to this measure.

AB 1366 (Lopez) of 2015, which died on the Inactive File on the Senate Floor, was similar in nature to this measure.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Alianza
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Student Aid Commission
Central American Resource Center
University of California

Opposition

None on file.

Analysis Prepared by: Jeanice Warden / HIGHER ED. / (916) 319-3960